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General Operations

- About 80 percent of the operational lines of communication which had been established by agents of the North Korean State Security Bureau (SSB)¹ before the war were disrupted by the end of 1951. Agents were being infiltrated successfully through the lines disguised as refugees, but subsequent communication with them was unsatisfactory, since it was impossible to set up any definite liaison methods because of the shifting combat zone. In September 1950, in Seoul, SSB operations were seriously affected when a majority of the agents who had been left in or sent into the Seoul area surrendered themselves to ROK investigative agencies to protect themselves and assure at least their temporary security. The SSB estimated that about 1,500 agents

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gave themselves up in the Seoul area alone. These agents now are legally (sic) residents of the ROK, but it will be sometime before they can secure the confidence of the ROK authorities and begin to reorganize their operations.

2. The SSB left about 3,000 stay-behind agents in Pyongyang in October 1950, and the SSB and other intelligence agencies sent into the area another 17,000 agents and informants. These agents were given first-class treatment by the SSB only if they had first shown their allegiance to the North Korean regime by harming rightist elements in their home town or village. This was a typically cruel measure of the North Korean government, but it gave positive proof of the ideology of the agent and at the same time it made sure he could not defect and surrender to the United Nations forces. Some of these 20,000 agents left Pyongyang with other refugees for the ROK, and in 1951 were scattered in various areas of South Korea. However, seldom were activities of these agents reported to the MSS, and it was not possible to establish liaison routes for them. Operations as a whole were unsatisfactory. In late 1951 intelligence was being collected primarily from prisoner of war interrogations and from the interrogation of captured United Nations intelligence agents. The SSB had captured about 200 such agents by the end of June 1951. Little information was secured from captured combat soldiers.

MSS School and Detachment in the Yonbaek Area

3. A training school of the Ministry of Social Security in which about 150 men and 60 women are students was at Mugu-ri (126-15, 37-57) (BT 5803) on 17 January 1952. There were 32 instructors at the school, including five women, all of whom had completed an eight-month course at the Pyongyang training center of the Ministry of Social Security. The school for agents at Mugu-ri began classes 1 October 1951. The course can be completed in three months but usually a preliminary period of training of an additional three months is required. The first class was scheduled to be graduated 1 April 1952.
4. Students at the school were recruited by the Kaesong branch² of the Ministry of Social Security, which field office is responsible for agent activity in the Seoul area. All students have relatives in Seoul or the vicinity. The following were some of the students at the school in January 1952:

CHANG Hak-su (張學素), aged 20, from Seoul.
CHO Ch'ol-un (趙鉄雲), aged 17, from Seoul.
KANG Pyong-kwon (康秉權), aged 23, from Kaesong. KANG attended school in Seoul before the war.
KIM Son-il (金孫一), aged 18, from Seoul.
KIM Yang-sik (金楊植), aged 18, from Seoul.
YANG Sun-sil (楊順實), aged 19, a girl, from Seoul.

5. The leading members of the teaching staff are the following:
 - a. WON Yong-su (元永壽), aged 38, chief instructor, a native of North Cholla Province in the ROK. WON was arrested and imprisoned by ROK authorities until the North Korean invasion. He is a graduate of the Pyongyang intelligence school. Aliases which WON has used include KIM Tong-hyok (金東赫) and HYON Ch'un (玄春). In the school he is known as HYON Tong-mu or "Comrade HYON."
 - b. YI Ch'ol-un (李鐵雲), former SSB agent and known in the school as "Comrade YI."

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- c. KIM Hek-sil (金福成), a woman aged 27, of North Cholla Province. KIM is the sister-in-law of KB. Sam-yong, South Korean Communist leader executed by the ROK authorities during the first few days of the war. She is in charge of the administration of the school.
- d. YI Ch'ang-yon (李昌淵), political commissar at the school, a graduate of both the Sedong Political School and the Pyongyang intelligence school.
6. In late January 1952 the Yonbaek-gun office of the MSS was headed by KIM Tok-san (金徳三), aged 32, who was assisted by YI Won-hi (李元熙), aged 27, deputy chief, and HO Tae-chun (許泰俊), aged 31, chief of personnel. PAK Tu-öp (朴斗益) was the political commissar. The organization of the Yonbaek-gun unit and some of the other officials were as follows:
- Interrogation Section.
Chief: KIM Kuk-chin (金國鎮), aged 34.
Interrogators: CHONG Se-chin (鄭世鎭), YI Chae-sön (李在喜), KIM Yong-sik (金龍植), and KIM Ku-yön (金龜淵).
 - Investigation Section.
Chief: KIM Ch'ön-su (金天柱), aged 29.
Investigators: KIM Nam-yong (金南容), KIM Po-kwön (金保權), YI Man-sik (李漢植), PAK Ch'ang-ik (朴昌益), and CHO Ch'un-sök (趙春石).
 - Espionage and Sabotage Section.
Chief: PAK Sun-pil (朴順弼), aged 35.
Chief agents: KIM Yong-sik (金容植), PAK Tong-pil (朴東弼), CHONG Kyöng-sön (鄭京善), CH'OE Pyöng-il (崔炳一), HWANG Hi-söng (黃熙星), and KIM Tong-pin (金東彬).
 - Administration Section.
Chief: KIM Mun-sik (金文植). Clerk: HAN Sang-hyöp (韓尚勸).
 - Files and Registered Documents Section: KIM Hyök-man (金赫萬), HWANG Sun-ae (黃順愛), and KIM Han-su (金萬澤), a woman.
 - Supply Section.
Chief: KIM Ch'il-söng (金七星). Assistant: CH'OE Sun-ha (崔順河).
7. When students in the MSS training school at Higu-ri have completed their training there, they will be given a one-week course of instruction by the Yonbaek-gun MSS office. The students will be briefed on the current military situation and the military codes and passwords used in the ROK army. Officers of the Espionage Section will instruct the students on methods of acquiring jobs as houseboys and mechanics with American units.

Nanch'onjon Detachment

8. In September 1951 the office of the Nanch'onjon (126-24, 38-20) (BT 7345) detachment of the MSS was in five cave shelters at the foot of a mountain in the county. The Nanch'onjon prosecutor's office was in the same shelter so that the activities of the two offices could be coordinated easily, and cells for prisoners were also in the shelter. The MSS detachment was in charge of Major PAK (fnu), aged 30, a member of the NKAP and a native of Pyongyang.

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A Captain KIM (fnm) headed the Inspection Section of the unit, and other members of the staff included four senior captains, seven captains, four senior lieutenants, and two lieutenants. They dressed in either civilian clothes or army uniforms, changing frequently. They were armed with pistols.

9. The detachment in Namch'on¹ had placed three or four informants in each village of the county. Suspects were being arrested whether or not there was substantial evidence against them, and in September there were about 250 persons under arrest. The detachment selected those considered innocent and sent them to the ROK on espionage missions, keeping them separate from the other nets.³ Arrestees generally accepted the missions, fearing that if they did not they would be branded disloyal citizens. After 20 or 30 days of training, these agents were dispatched to the ROK to infiltrate labor groups. North Korean army troops escorted them to the front lines, the principal route employed being that through Kaesong. One suspect, after being interrogated at length and charged with confiding to neighbors that it would be better to flee south than endure taxation and lack of food, was beaten until he fell senseless. After two weeks he was again interrogated and tortured into unconsciousness by the use of electric shock. The third interrogation was conducted by a captain who said the suspect would be pardoned because he had two sons fighting with the North Korean army, and asked the suspect to go to the ROK as a spy for the government as a patriotic act; he would be rewarded, the captain said, according to what he produced. The pardoned prisoner protested because of his weakened physical condition. After examining him, the captain agreed that he was too ill and told him to return to his village and report on reactionaries there.

Chinnamp'o Detachment

10. The Chinnamp'o (125-24, 38-44) (YC 0989) detachment of the MSS in late October 1951 was operating from the former criminal courts building in the Yongjong-ni (永井里) area of the city. Chief of the detachment was Major KIM Tae-ho (金泰浩),⁴ aged 39, a native of Chinnamp'o. He was assisted by Senior Captain KIM Yong-tai (金永泰), aged 39, of Tami-nyŏn, Yonggang-gun, in South Pyongan Province. Chief of the intelligence section was Captain HAN Kil-chun (韓吉春), aged 30, of Kilchu-gun, North Hamgyong Province; and in charge of administration was Senior Lieutenant PAK In-gun (朴仁根), aged 24, of Chinnamp'o. All are members of the NKLP. There were about 35 persons on the staff of the detachment, which employed in addition about 500 informants in the area. The regular employees were assigned to observe and investigate the ideology of employees in various North Korean agencies and associations, and handle the informants. The informants worked under cover as ordinary employees and citizens to collect information in the area, but in the future some will be used in intelligence operations in the ROK. Since the Chinnamp'o area covers the approaches to Pyŏngyang from the Yellow Sea, informant nets, complicated in organization, were established to check on travellers and merchants, some informants being disguised as peddlers and smugglers. Suspicious persons were being sent to the MSS office for interrogation by these informants.
11. An unusual activity of the Chinnamp'o detachment was its direct control of the Chosun Trading Company (Chosun Sangsa)⁵ office in the area. Ten sailing vessels and two motor boats, the latter having a speed of from eight to 10 knots, which were in the harbor at Chinnamp'o and were outwardly under Chosun Trading Company management, were actually used by the MSS in the city. Their movements were directly controlled by the MSS, and although ostensibly they were used to patrol the harbor and prevent the entry of ROK intelligence agents, their main purpose was to infiltrate MSS agents into the ROK by moving them down the west coast by sea.

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Wonsan Area Detachments and Agent Training

12. The Wonsan City detachment of the Ministry of Social Security in January 1952 was in the village hall at Yongseon-dong, Wonsan (127-26, 39-10) (CU 6536). Colonel CHU Song-ku (朴 昌久), was chief of the detachment; Senior Captain CHO Kyong-hwa (趙 敬華), deputy chief; Captain T'AK Un-hwan (朴 恩煥), chief of the Education Section; and Captain PAK Ch'ol (朴 植), chief of the Intelligence Section.
13. In January the Wonsan detachment was primarily interested in recruiting agents from the area for infiltration into the ROK. Thirty persons were recruited and undergoing a 20-day training period in January. Selection of the recruits was generally from persons who had collaborated with ROK youth organizations or United Nations security authorities during the occupation of the area by United Nations forces, and who had completely repented and have since faithfully cooperated with North Korean authorities. Training consisted of instruction in Communist party history and propaganda directed toward the ordinary labor elements of the population; periods of military training and drill; reporting of order of battle information; briefing on the investigation of the ROK government's treatment of refugees and their living conditions; and special directives for agents who planned to penetrate specific United Nations organizations.
14. In October 1951 the First Bureau of the Kangwon Province Detachment⁶ of the East Coast Department of the Ministry of Social Security was commanded by Colonel CHU Song-ku, aged 41, a native of Kyonggi Province. His deputy was Captain CHO Kyong-hwa, aged 40; the chief instructor was Captain T'AK Un-hwan, aged 30; and the intelligence officer PAK Ch'ol, aged 31. All were members of the South Korean Labor Party and natives of Kyonggi Province except CHO, who was a native of South Hwanggyong Province and a member of the North Korean Labor Party. The 17th Unit of the First Bureau in October was dispatching agents into the islands of Yonghung-man (127-24, 39-15) (CU 6545) after twenty days of training. The agents, one of whom was KIM Chong-sun, a girl aged 24, were being trained at various houses in the Pongchung area. One was the home of YU Kyong-chen, aged 27. The primary mission of these agents was to determine the organization, personnel, and procedures of United Nations intelligence organizations on Yo-do (127-38, 39-14) (CU 8243), including the means of communication with headquarters, the frequencies and call signs used, and whether they communicated directly to headquarters or via another island. The 17th Unit was also interested in descriptions and names of United Nations agents, locations of safehouses, treatment received by agents, the periods for which they were dispatched, and the means used to infiltrate North Korean agencies. The agents the 17th Unit trained were to secure information on United Nations strength on the island and, incidentally, relationship with the people.
15. Another detachment of the MSS in the Wonsan area was at Munch'on (127-17, 39-17) (CU 5249) in October 1951. Chief of the detachment was SO To-chong, aged 30, SKLP member and a native of Kyonggi Province. SO To-chong is an alias. Other officials were SO's deputy, CHANG In-ch'ol, aged 30, SKLP member and a native of North Kyongsang Province, and the intelligence officer, CHONG Kyo-si, aged 30, of Kangwon Province and a member of the NKLP. Lieutenant YI Tae-ho was also on the staff.

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Hamgyong Area

16. In October 1951 the South Hamgyong Province office of the Ministry of Social Security was in a shelter half-underground at the foot of Paillyong-san (127-32, 39-46) (CV 7521). The shelter was about three and one-half meters high, seven meters wide, and eleven meters long; it was roofed with tiles and covered with stalks and grasses. The sides of the shelter were walled with red brick and covered with grass, and from the air, although part of the red brick wall could be seen, the structure appeared to be a heap of earth such as is often piled over vegetables in Korea to keep them from freezing during the winter. Five dug-outs used as air-raid shelters were in the cliff to the rear of the structure used as an office.
17. Chief of the South Hamgyong office was Senior Colonel YI Song-t'aeck (李成澤), aged 30, a member of the North Korean Labor Party. The head of the First Section was Lieutenant Colonel SONG Tong-p'om (宋東範), aged 26, also an NKLP member. SONG had a staff of six or seven section members, and his task was to organize an underground cell network and collect information through it. There were fifteen sections in all in the office, each of which had about six staff employees. The Fourth Section was the personnel section (Kanbu Kua). Each staff employee carried a Soviet pistol and the detachment also had 10 PPSH's and 20 Mosin-Nagant rifles. There were five platoons of armed guards directly controlled by the detachment. The strength of the detachment, not including the guards, was about 100 men.
18. In October 1951 the Chongpyong-gun (127-22, 39-46) (CV 6003) Public Security Detachment⁷ was composed of 21 persons under Lieutenant Colonel YI Yong-chae (李永在), aged 27, a member of the NKLP. The head of the First Section was PAK Tong-hol (朴東赫), aged 26. The Second Section was in charge of Senior Lieutenant CH'OE (崔) (fnu), aged 24; and there were seven other sections in the office. Eight leaders for each district (myon) in Chongpyong-gun were on the staff of the detachment. These leaders, the vice chief of the section, and the chiefs of the First and Second Sections were furnished Soviet pistols, while the chief had a caliber .45 pistol. A few PPSH's and Mosin-Nagant rifles were also among the arms.
19. In November 1950 HONG Sun-uk (洪淳郁), aged 23, who had been a member of the Democratic Youth Alliance, the Soviet-Korean Culture Association, and other North Korean patriotic organizations, pretended to be an ROK sympathizer and became a member and planning section chief of the anti-Communist Korean Students Corps (Taehan Hakto Holuk Tan) in Wonsan. He retreated, with refugees fleeing the Communist armies, to 16-do in December 1950, and on 24 December forced a group of them at gunpoint to return with him to the mainland, where he turned them over to the North Korean Chongpyong-gun security office. In January 1951 he had two teen-aged boys arrested on charges of distributing ROK propaganda leaflets. He was commended for his loyal activity, was appointed a member of the signal corps of the Security Department of the North Korean Ministry of Social Security, and in early April 1951 served on the personal signal staff of the chief of the Chongpyong-gun detachment of the MSS, Lieutenant Colonel YI Yong-chae. In early July HONG was placed in charge of special operations of the Diamond Mountain (Kumgang-san) Agit8 of the South Hamgyong Province Department of the MSS. He later was ordered by his superior, YI Chong-u (李鍾南), aged 30, to infiltrate an ROK guerrilla unit operating from Poro-san (127-19, 39-55) (CV 5619), where HONG worked more than a month. In mid-August he was able to lead five of the guerrillas.

KANG Se-myong, aged 40, CH'OE Kyong-hwa, CHU Ki-il, HAN Pu-hyop, aged 21, and YI Yong-su, aged 19, into the hands of the KSS, which executed them. In October he was instructed by SON Yong-pom (孫永鵬), chief of the First Section to use letters captured from two ROK agents, one of them a radio operator, to pose as an ROK sympathizer, and inform ROK headquarters in Pusan that the agent and the operator were still operating in the mountains, thereby inducing the headquarters to supply them with weapons and other supplies. He was also instructed to secure information on United Nations troop and weapon strength on Yŏ-do in Wonsan harbor, and details of ROK intelligence operations. HONG took a small boat to Yŏ-do, where he was arrested by ROK authorities.

20. The Kosong-gun (128-11, 38-35) (DT 2970) detachment of the KSS in November 1951 was in a shelter at the foot of a mountain at Onchong-ni, Oegwang-myon (128-11, 38-42) (DT 2983). The office was supplied with electricity by the Ch'ui-ryong (127-49, 39-47) (CT-5753) hydro-electric power station. The chief of the detachment was YI Pyong-chun (李平春), aged 33, and the deputy chief was CH'OE Tok-ch'un (崔德春). The detachment was composed of nine units. The General Affairs Unit was headed by KIM Ki-yong, aged 27, and had two staff employees. The Educational Unit was headed by KIM Chong-sop, aged 36, and had two employees. CHIN Myong-se, aged 37, was in charge of the Religious Groups and Political Parties Unit. In addition there were the Investigation Unit, which reviewed the findings on ideological deviations made by the General Affairs Unit; the Personnel Unit; the Accounting Unit; the Confidential Communications Unit; the Industry Unit; and the Popular Education Unit, which propagandized national policies and handled school indoctrination. About 40 men were in the office, and all local officials reported as informants to them.
21. In early November 1951 the Kosong-gun detachment was holding 200 suspects for investigation; half of them were charged with being from families some members of which had fled to the ROK, or with being espionage agents for the United Nations. The others were reactionaries or those who refused to cooperate with the North Korean government. Most of the suspects had been weakened by the poor food, only 200 grams of rice, millet, and beans being furnished daily; by torture; and by the lack of ventilation in the cells. During one ten-day period in November, two women and three men died of hunger and four other persons were tortured to death.

KSS School at Uiju

22. A school for training officers of the State Security Bureau which was located in September 1950 at the Chaesongwon Mine (125-45, 38-59) (YD-3818) in October 1950 was moved to Usui-myon, Pyoktong-gun (125-29, 40-42) (YF-1008), and in December to Samhapch'on, a small village in the Tunghua Hsien (125-57, 41-43) area of Manchuria. The school remained at Samhapch'on until July 1951, when it returned to Korea and was re-established at Uiju (124-32, 40-12) (XE 3051). At Samhapch'on the school was directed by AN Pyong-in, about 50 years old, who had a staff of 30 teachers. One was CHO In-hwan, about 28 years old, who taught intelligence. There were about 1,200 students at the school. Of these 700 attended school for only the first three months and graduated in the first group; and 500 attended an additional three months and graduated in the second group. The principal subject at the school was intelligence, 24 hours of classes per week being devoted to its study. Other subjects included Communist Party history, nine hours per week; examination techniques, six hours; and Korean geography and history, Russian history, marksmanship, and military training, two or three hours each. Eighty men of the second group received a superior rating of five points or above; none failed the course.

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33. The training at the school included lectures on the detection and investigation of United Nations espionage agents. The students were instructed that these agents were usually put ashore by small boat after warships had bombarded the coast, or were dropped by parachute after United Nations aircraft had strafed the area; they were therefore warned to investigate these areas carefully for agents who might have infiltrated. They were told these agents were often disguised as North Korean army troops, employees of government offices, or refugees, and that frequently they carried Labor Party certificates, identification cards of government offices, fountain pens, radios, and cameras. They were instructed therefore to investigate thoroughly persons displaying any of these documents or articles. They were taught to ask suspects the following questions: date suspect entered the Labor Party, place, guarantor, and province where he lived. These questions were to be asked again five minutes later, and the speech of the suspect compared with that of the place of issue of the identity card, and the photograph compared with the suspect's appearance. Travel certificates were to be similarly checked, but there was no definite scientific method of interrogation indicated to the students.⁹

- 25X1A 1 [REDACTED] Comment. The North Korean State Security Bureau, originally part of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, was raised to ministry status in April 1951 and reorganized as the Ministry of Social Security (MSS), Sahoe Anchon Sung, sometimes translated as the Public Security Ministry. It is this ministry which is the intelligence agency referred to in this report.
- 25X1A 2 [REDACTED] Comment. The organization of the Kaesong branch of the MSS was described in [REDACTED]
- 25X1A 3 [REDACTED] Comment. The other nets are presumably local security informant nets.
- 25X1A 4 [REDACTED] Comment. A KIM Tae-ho was arrested by ROK police twice in August 1950 for forgery of United Nations identity cards, but he escaped both times. KIM is the only person mentioned in this report on whom there is possibly applicable information in the files of this headquarters.
- 25X1A 5 [REDACTED] Comment. The use of the Chosun Sangea as a cover agency for activities of the North Korean State Security Bureau from 1947 to 1950 has often been reported.
- 25X1A 6 [REDACTED] Comment. Presumably this is the same MSS detachment described in paragraphs 12 and 13. Of special interest in those paragraphs are the facts that the highest officials, with one exception, appear to be natives of South Korea, and that the First Bureau, and more especially the 17th Unit, is primarily interested in counter-intelligence and counter-espionage.
- 25X1A 7 [REDACTED] Comment. Presumably the same unit as described in paragraph 19.
- 25X1A 8 [REDACTED] Comment. "Agit" is a term used by the MSS to describe an installation used for the training and briefing of agents.
- 25X1A 9 [REDACTED] Comment. The large number of students and the type of instruction given suggest this school was for officials to be used in internal security work.

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